

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

July 2011

**STAFF:**

ELIZABETH F. COOPER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
SCOTT MILLER, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW  
5 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1635

**MEMBERS:**

SEN. A. DAVID TRAHAN, CHAIR  
SEN. DAVID R. HASTINGS, III  
SEN. RICHARD G. WOODBURY

REP. L. GARY KNIGHT, CHAIR  
REP. G. PAUL WATERHOUSE  
REP. BRUCE A. BICKFORD  
REP. PAUL EDWARD BENNETT  
REP. DAVID R. BURNS  
REP. R. RYAN HARMON  
REP. SETH A. BERRY  
REP. DONALD E. PILON  
REP. MARK E. BRYANT  
REP. ELSPETH M. FLEMINGS

STATE OF MAINE  
125<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND  
ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

*CARRIED OVER* ..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature  
*CON RES XXX*..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died  
*DIED BETWEEN HOUSES*..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died  
*EMERGENCY*..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment  
*FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE* ..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote  
*FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE*..... failed to receive final majority vote  
*FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT* ..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote  
*HELD BY GOVERNOR*..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session  
*LEAVE TO WITHDRAW*..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY* ..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died  
*INDEF PP*..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died  
*ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X*... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died  
*P&S XXX*..... chapter # of enacted private & special law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... chapter # of enacted public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... chapter # of finally passed resolve  
*VETO SUSTAINED*..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature is September 28, 2011. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

**Joint Standing Committee on Taxation**

**LD 745**      **An Act To Encourage the Use of Reusable Bags**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CORNELL DU HOUX	ONTP	

This bill provides an income tax credit up to \$75,000 to retailers that provide compensation to customers for the use of reusable bags.

**LD 752**      **An Act To Provide Funding for Landfills by Imposing a Gift Package Surcharge**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KNAPP	ONTP	

This bill requires a retail store with over 8,000 square feet of retail floor space to collect a surcharge of \$2 on each gift package provided to its retail customers. The surcharge is remitted to the State to support the Department of Environmental Protection's remediation and closure program for solid waste landfills.

**LD 762**      **An Act To Provide Equitable Revenue-sharing Distribution**

**MAJORITY  
(ONTP) REPORT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHAW	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill changes the method for distributing the money in the Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund, known as "Rev II," beginning October 1, 2011 and increases funding to so-called "Rev I" municipalities. Currently, Rev II funds are distributed to each municipality with a property tax mill rate over 10 mills in proportion to the disproportionate tax burden. Under this bill, Rev II funds will be distributed only to those municipalities with a property tax mill rate over 10 mills that are designated as service center communities, which by definition include census designated places. Beginning October 1, 2011, the bill reduces the amount transferred from the Local Government Fund to the Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund to 11% each year. This will increase the total amount of funding going to Rev I municipalities.